



Joseph Nikolao

MAR 23, 1949 - MAY 13, 2024



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Joseph Nikolao

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J oseph Nikolao, Sr. A Lifetime of Service, Honor, and Sacrifice

Joseph Nikolao was born on March 23rd, 1949 in Moamoa, Samoa. He was raised in the Village Futiga, American Samoa. This was the first village where his parents, Nikolao Filipino and Kolotita To'iata Leota, were assigned to work as Catholic Catechists in 1953. Joseph graduated in 1968 from Samoana High School. Soon after, Joseph married the love of his life, Mele Uili on September 9th, 1971. On January 10th, 1974, Joseph enlisted in the United States Army and became a naturalized United States Citizen.

Joseph's first military assignment was from 1974-1977 at the Schofield Barracks in Hawaii and then a short period in Alabama. He also served in Germany and Korea with his final station at Fort Lewis, Washington in Washington state. In 1986, Joseph and Mele purchased their family home in Lakewood, Washington.

On February 31st, 1995, after 21 years of service, Joseph retired as a Sergeant First Class. He then began his career as an Immigration Officer for the Department of Homeland Security, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services in Seattle, Washington. He always believed education was extremely important for advancement in the workplace and for the mind so he continued his education, earning his Associate of Arts Degree from Pierce College in 1999. He went on to earn his Bachelor of Arts Degree in Business Administration and Management at Saint Martin's University in 2002.

After a long career, Joseph retired in 2013 to spend more time with his ever growing family. He loved to volunteer for church and spend time with his grandchildren.

He is survived by children: Maria, Joseph Jr., Jerome, Jason, Raynette, Josiah, special grandson Niko, 13 grandchildren, sisters: Velonita, Pelenatete, Taisalina and brothers: Alefosio, and Vitolio.



Obituary

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With tremendous love and respect, we say goodbye to our father, our grandfather, our uncle, our brother, our friend, our leader, our teacher, our hero. We say goodbye to the great man who loved us all and guided us through life.

We love you, Pa!



Events

Joseph Nikolao

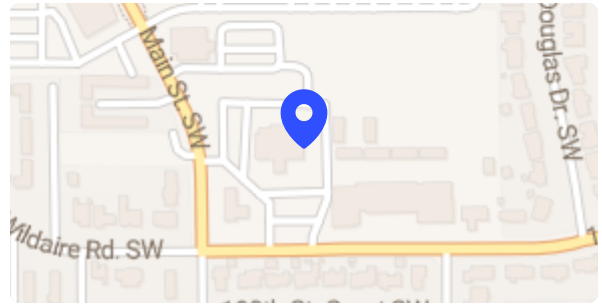
MAR 23, 1949 - MAY 13, 2024

Visitation

Thursday, May 30, 2024

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM PT

Saint Francis Cabrini Catholic Church
5707 108th ST SW, LAKEWOOD WA 98499

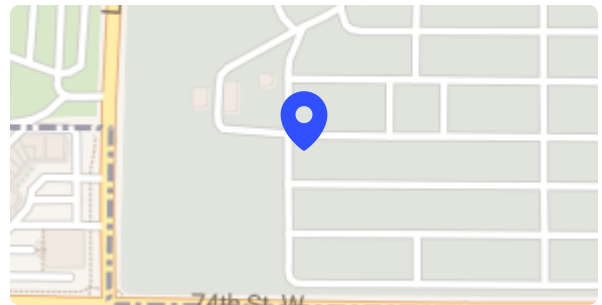


Graveside Service with Military Honors

Friday, May 31, 2024

12:30 AM - 1:30 PM PT

Calvary Cemetery
5212 70th St. SW, TACOMA WA

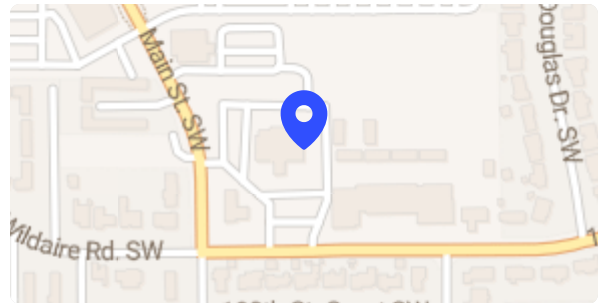


Rosary

Friday, May 31, 2024

10:30 AM - 11:00 AM PT

Saint Francis Cabrini Catholic Church
5707 108th ST SW, LAKEWOOD WA 98499

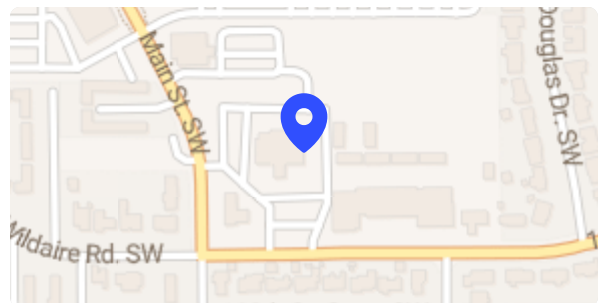


Mass

Friday, May 31, 2024

11:00 AM - 12:00 PM PT

Saint Francis Cabrini Catholic Church
5707 108th ST SW, LAKEWOOD WA 98499





Tribute Wall

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Ko Taiatini Tenei posted:

My grandmother is Lusía Nikolao from Samoa, migrated to Aotearoa New Zealand in the 1950's. I do not have a memory of Joseph but I loved reading his life story. Thank you for sharing parts of your father's life. I am reaching out to make connections as we must be related. Aiga is important to me, let's connect 📧 taiatini@hotmail.co.nz Fa'afetai lava Taiatini Lepaio - Nikolao

June 3 at 2:57 AM



Shirley, Vince, Nick, & Lenny Gascon sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Nikolao family.



May 30 at 7:46 AM



Shirley, Vince, Nick, & Lenny Gascon planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Joseph.



May 30 at 7:46 AM



Charlotte And Anthony Silva lit a candle in honor of Joseph.

I'm truly sorry for your loss. My husband and I worked with Mele for some years at Madigan. She and Joseph were good friends. I used to give them toys for you children when you were younger.



May 24 at 1:36 PM

MN **Maria Nikolao** June 3 at 8:57 AM

Thank you so much for your love and support. We would love to hear stories about them.
Minkolao1@hotmail.com



Anonymous sent a Divine Peace Bouquet to the Nikolao family.



May 21 at 4:54 PM



Tribute Wall

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Joe'S Knights Of Columbus Council planted a Memorial Tree in honor of Joseph.

May 21 at 4:54 PM



Deborah And Raymond Denison lit a candle in honor of Joseph.

Deborah and Raymond Denison lit a candle in memory of Joseph Nikolao

May 20 at 9:47 AM



Johnny Victor Toma lit a candle in honor of Joseph.

Johnny Victor Toma lit a candle in memory of Joseph Nikolao

May 18 at 10:51 AM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Joseph by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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